

the State," These met at Foggia but merely assented to the sums of money demanded by the Emperor and regulated the raising of them. Again in 1234 Frederick directed four deputies from every great city, two from every smaller town, one from every castle, to come together twice yearly in May and November in five separate places of assembly, there to meet barons and prelates and to bring, in the presence of a special imperial envoy, whatever complaints they might have against officials of the Crown. The imperial object was "to ensure to every man his right"; in effect there was no legislation at these provincial assemblies, and scarcely even the seeds of a National Parliament were sown.

The lineaments of the greatest of mediaeval Emperors are those of his Sicilian grandfather Roger II. But Frederick is the Norman of a later and more spacious age, the child of a more refined generation and born to a century in which the march of civilisation and intellectual freedom becomes suddenly accelerated, The age of Roger, in spite of gleams of light and splendour which fall on Spain and Sicily and radiate still from

Byzantium, is yet waiting expectant in
the early
dawn of a new civilisation, its towns
few and still
struggling for freedom, its mind bound
in theo-
logical fetters, almost all its best
intellects ob-
sessed by Cluniac Puritanism, its
voices in prose
and poetry few, timid, and
conventional, its
national institutions still cased in
feudal iron,